

To Senator Flexer, Representative Fox, ranking members Senator Sampson, Representative Mastrofrancesco, and distinguished Members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee:

My name is Regina Griffin and I am a voter from Southbury, CT. I am writing to support passing HB 6578, because Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) makes sense to me. In fact, I can't understand efforts against it. Making it easier for citizens to register to vote—who could object to that? The same rules of eligibility will remain; our towns and cities will only allow citizens of the proper age to be enfranchised, so let's make it easier for them.

And why not expand it from our DMV to other state departments, such as the Department of Social Services (DSS), HUSKY, Access Health CT, state colleges and universities, and other state agencies?

I also believe strongly in restoring the right to vote to people on parole. While I understand disenfranchising people in prison, once someone is released on parole, it seems wiser to accept them back into the community fully—granting them back both the duty and the privilege of voting is important. Studies of recidivism reflect that the more integrated a former prisoner is into his or her community, the less likely recidivism is to occur. So it's a benefit for the entire state.

Lastly, please pass SB 1017! Perhaps it's because I have a sister with progressive multiple sclerosis, or moved up to Heritage Village, a 55+ community to help my mother, but what a difference having trustworthy ballot boxes were to my sister and my neighbors. I myself voted at the polling station, but having an option increased turnout among registered voters, and that is a wonderful thing.

I ask you to pass HB 6578 and SB 1017.

Thank you,

Regina Griffin
Southbury, CT